

**CHAPTER NO. 740**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2667**

**By McLeary, Burks**

**Substituted for: House Bill No. 2899**

**By Casada**

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37, relative to child abuse and prevention.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-5-106(10), is amended by deleting the punctuation ";" at the end of that subdivision and by substituting instead the following punctuation and language:

. All child protective services workers must be trained in their legal duties to protect the constitutional and statutory rights of children and families from the initial time of contact, during the investigation, and through the treatment.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-406(a), is amended by adding the following language after the second sentence of that subsection:

All representatives of the child protective services agency shall, at the initial time of contact with the individual who is subject to a child abuse and neglect investigation, advise the individual of the complaints or allegations made against the individual consistent with laws protecting the rights of the informant.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-406, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection (l):

(l) The legislative intent of this section is to protect the legal rights of the family in an investigation and to ensure that no activity occurs which compromises the department's child abuse investigation or any ongoing concurrent criminal investigation conducted by law enforcement.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 10, 2004

  
JOHN S. WILDER  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 24<sup>th</sup> day of May 2004

  
PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR